

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending and under consideration.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board. As an example, present FIG. 3(b) illustrates this feature.

The Examiner relies upon the mounting ring 10 and the O-ring 12 of Huffman as corresponding to the claimed elastic member. However, the mounting ring 10 is made of incompressible plastic. Huffman, col. 2, ln. 68. Due to the incompressibility of the mounting ring 10, this element is not "elastic," as claimed.

Although the O-ring 12 is made of rubber (col. 3, ln. 10-11), this element by itself does not meet all the recited limitations of the claimed elastic member. Specifically, the claimed elastic member encloses the electronic component. However, the O-ring 12 of Huffman does not enclose the capacitor 4. Instead, the O-ring 12 is below the capacitor 4. Huffman, FIG. 1.

Huffman is disadvantageous as compared to the invention of claim 1. Specifically, in order to attach the mounting ring 10 and the O-ring 12 to the capacitor 4, the mounting ring 10 and the O-ring 10 must be inserted between the capacitor 4 and the circuit board 2. Then, the mounting ring 10 and the O-ring 12 must be screwed by machine screws 8, 8'. Huffman, col. 3, ln. 15-26. Thus, the manufacture process of Huffman is complex.

Furthermore, it is possible to detachably attach the spacer onto the printed wiring board by using the elastic deformation of the spacer. Thus, the spacer can be separated from the printed wiring board in advance of soldering an electronic component onto the printed wiring board, or when removing the electronic component. Thus, the spacer does not have to be manufactured from a material which can resist the heat of the soldering, thereby reducing manufacturing costs.

Furthermore, dependent claim 3 recites that the elastic member has a pair of hook portions projecting into the gap. The Examiner relies upon the portion of the mounting ring 10 that is between the capacitor 4 and the printed circuit board 2. However, this portion has a constant radius, and therefore is not a hook portion.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

Serial No. 10/849,523

application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

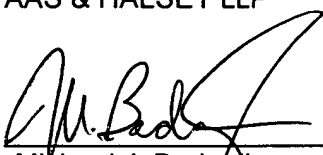
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-2-05

By: 
Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501